

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02696 171543Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
ACDA-12 IO-14 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-11
CEQ-01 AID-05 /137 W
-----070852 180753Z /15

R 171340Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9595
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2696

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP TECH IN US
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON DESAI LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND
PALKHIVALA MEETING WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI

1. MOST FEBRUARY 17 DELHI PAPERS CARRY ARTICLES
DATELINED WASHINGTON REPORTING THAT AMBASSADOR
PALKHIVALA CALLED ON DR. BRZEZINSKI FEBRUARY 15 TO
DELIVER A LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER DESAI TO THE
PRESIDENT. ONE ACCOUNT, IN THE "INDIAN EXPRESS",
SPECULATES THAT IN HIS LETTER THE PM CONVEYED HIS
WILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS THE CONGRESS ON INDIA'S
NUCLEAR POSITION DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. IN
MAY OR JUNE.

2. MOST OF THE PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO REPORT SUBJECTS
DISCUSSED BY AMBASSADOR PALKHIVALA AND DR. BRZEZINSKI
DURING THEIR MEETING. PALKHIVALA REPORTEDLY STRESSED
THE URGENCY OF RELEASING THE 7.6 TONS OF FUEL FOR
TARAPUR, AND DR. BRZEZINSKI IS SAID TO HAVE RESPONDED
THAT ALTHOUGH THE ADMINISTRATION HAD RECOMMENDED ITS
RELEASE, THE NRC HAD NOT YET MADE A DECISION. PALKHIVALA
ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED INDIAN CONCERN OVER THE
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DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUETRON BOMB. ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT,
DR. BRZEZINSKI MADE A "REASONED AND REASONABLE"
DEFENSE OF THE U.S. DECISION TO DEVELOP THE WEAPON ON
THE GROUNDS THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS FAR MORE LETHAL
WEAPONS THAN THE NEUTRON BOMB IN ITS ARSENAL, PARTICULARLY THE
SS-20 MISSILE. OTHER SUBJECTS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED DURING THE
MEETING WERE THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE SITUATION

IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

3. ACCOUNTS WERE REPORTEDLY BASED ON BRIEFING PALKHIVALA
GAVE INDIAN PRESSMEN FOLLOWING HIS SESSION WITH BRZEZINSKI.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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